CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bone/ribcage spreader device for spreading the bones/ribcage of a game animal, the bone/ribcage spreader device comprising:

a first arm having a first end and a second end, the second end having a first protrusion and a second protrusion surrounding a first recessed area, the first arm having a straight portion and an angled portion;

a second arm having a first end and a second end, the second end having a first protrusion and a second protrusion surrounding a second recessed area

a stop mechanism formed on the second arm, the stop mechanism contactable with the first arm; and

a pivot point at the first end of the first arm and the first end of the second arm rotatably connecting the first arm to the second arm;

wherein the bones/ribcage to be spread are positioned within the recessed portion of the first arm and the second arm such that upon rotation of the first arm and the second arm relative to each other until the stop mechanism contacts the first arm, the first arm and the second arm releasably lock thereby maintaining the bone/ribcage within each recessed portion.

2. The bone/ribcage spreader device of claim 1 and further comprising:

means for aligning the line of force between the second ends of the first arm and the second arm offset over the pivot point.

3. The bone/ribcage spreader device of claim 2 wherein the means for aligning includes a straight portion on the first arm adjacent the first end and an angled portion on the first arm adjacent the second end.

4. The bone/ribcage spreader device of claim 3 and further comprising:

a stop mechanism formed on the second arm positioned adjacent the first end of the second arm substantially between the pivot point and the first end for inhibiting the rotation of the first arm relative to the second arm when the straight portion of the first arm is substantially aligned with the second arm.

5. The bone/ribcage spreader device of claim 1 and further comprising:

means for releasably locking the first arm relative to the second arm.

6. The bone/ribcage spreader device of claim 1 and further comprising:

a plurality of apertures formed along the first arm and the second arm.

7. A mechanism for spreading the bones/ribcage of a game animal or livestock, the mechanism comprising:

first bone contacting means for contacting a first bone;

second bone contacting means for contacting a second bone, the first bone contacting means pivotally connected to the second bone contacting means; and

alignment means for aligning the line of force between the first bone and the second bone over the pivot point between the first bone contacting means and the second bone contacting means.

8. The mechanism of claim 7 wherein the first bone contacting means includes a first arm having a first end and a second end, the second end having a first protrusion and a second protrusion surrounding a first recessed area and the second bone contacting means includes a second arm having a first end and a second end, the second end having a first protrusion and a second protrusion surrounding a second recessed area.

9. The mechanism of claim 7 wherein the alignment means includes an angled portion on the first bone contacting means.

10. The mechanism of claim 7 and further comprising:

means for releasably locking the first arm relative to the second arm.

11. The mechanism of claim 7 wherein the means for releasably locking includes a stop mechanism formed on the second bone contacting means adjacent the pivot point for inhibiting the rotation of the first bone contacting means relative to the second bone contacting means.

12. The mechanism of claim 7 and further comprising:

a plurality of apertures formed along the first bone contacting means and the second bone contacting means.

13. A method for spreading the bones/ribcage of a game animal or livestock, the method comprising:

providing a first member;

providing a second member;

pivotally connecting the first member to the second member;

contacting a first bone with the first member;

contacting a second bone with the second member;

pivoting the first member in a general direction away from the second member; and

aligning the line of force between the first bone and the second bone over the pivot point between the first member and the second member.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the first member has a first protrusion and a second protrusion surrounding a first recessed area and the second bone member has a

first protrusion and a second protrusion surrounding a second recessed area, the first bone receivable within the first recessed area, the second bone receivable within the second recessed area.

15. The method of claim 13 and further comprising:
angling a portion of the first member.

16. The method of claim 13 and further comprising:
releasably locking the first member to the second member.

17. The method of claim 13 and further comprising:
forming a stop mechanism on the second member adjacent the pivot point; and
inhibiting the rotation of the first member relative to the second member.

18. The method of claim 13 and further comprising:
forming a plurality of apertures along the first member and the second member.